

Cancer Data Pages: Cancer Mortality

Introduction

Cancer is a group of more than 100 different diseases that often develop gradually as the result of a complex mix of lifestyle, environment, and genetic factors. People are at higher risk for certain cancers due to factors related to personal behaviors such as: tobacco use, alcohol use, diet, physical inactivity, and overexposure to sunlight. Vaccination with the HPV vaccine prior to exposure to the virus can decrease the risk of certain cancers. Cancer becomes more survivable when found and treated early, which can be accomplished through the use of available cancer screening tests including those for lung, breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers.

The purpose of this report is to present cancer mortality data from the Vermont Vital Statistics System.

Note: Throughout this report, data comparisons presented as “higher,” “lower,” “larger,” “smaller,” “better,” “worse,” or as “significantly different” are all considered statistically significant differences.

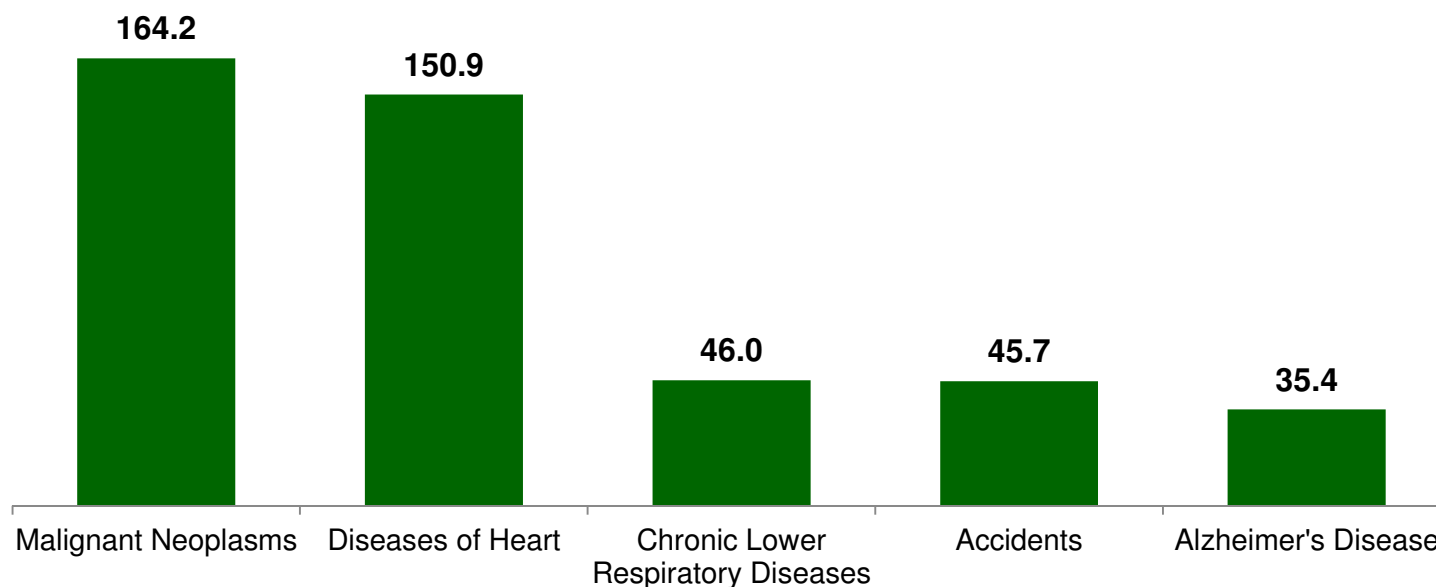
Confidence intervals were used for statistical comparisons between groups. A confidence interval represents the range in which a parameter estimate would fall which is calculated based on the observed data. For this analysis, we used a 95% confidence interval, meaning that we are 95% confident that the true value of the parameter being examined falls within the specified confidence interval. Statistical significance is assessed by comparing the confidence intervals of different groups. If the confidence intervals from two groups, do not overlap we consider the estimates to be significantly different from one another.

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Leading Causes of Death

From the 1960's through 2006 the two leading causes of death in Vermont were heart disease and cancer (malignant neoplasms), respectively. In 2007 cancer took over as the leading cause of death among Vermonters. Cancer remains the leading cause of death in Vermont with an age adjusted mortality rate of 164.2 per 100,000 persons (2012).

Leading Causes of Death in Vermont (2012)



Note: All rates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population and are per 100,000 persons.

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Leading Causes of Cancer Death – VT vs. U.S.

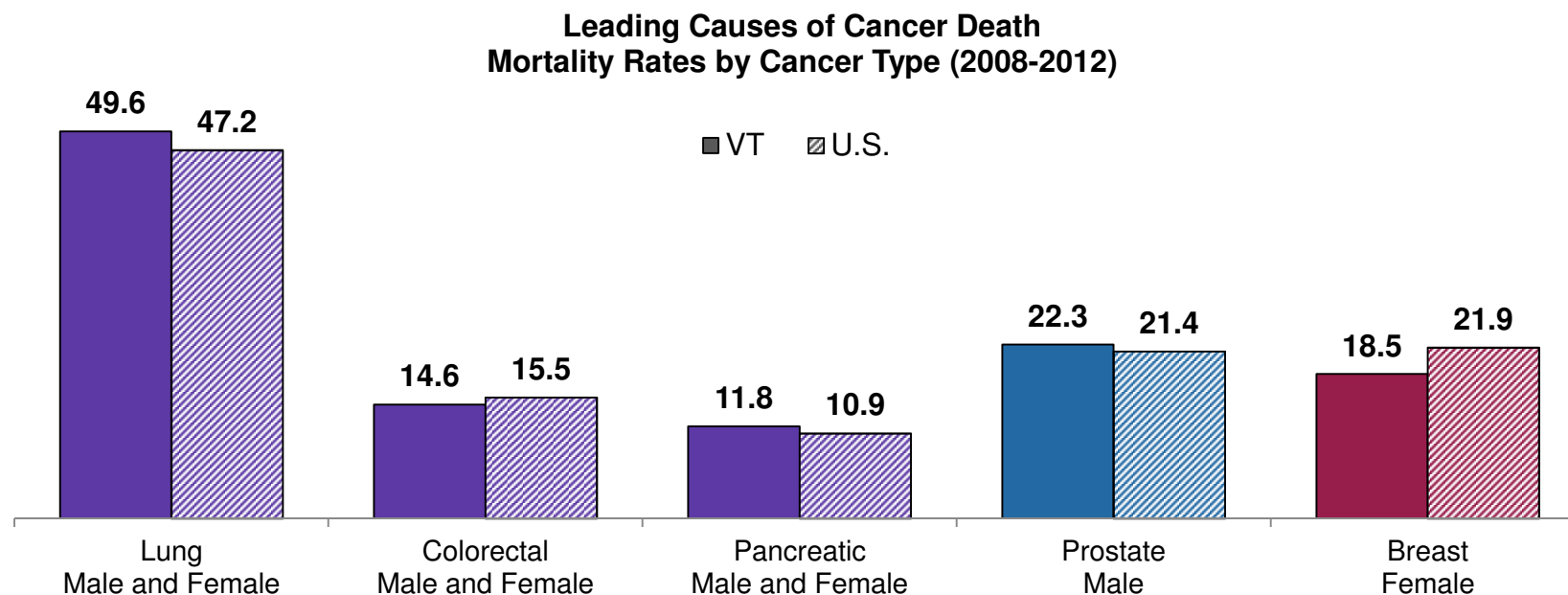
The Vermont lung cancer mortality rate among males and females combined was similar to the national rate (2008-2012).

The Vermont colorectal cancer mortality rate among males and female combined was similar to the national rate (2008-2012).

The Vermont pancreatic cancer mortality rate among males and female combined was similar to the national rate (2008-2012).

The Vermont male prostate cancer mortality rate was similar to the national rate (2008-2012)

The Vermont female breast cancer mortality rate was lower than the national rate (2008-2012).

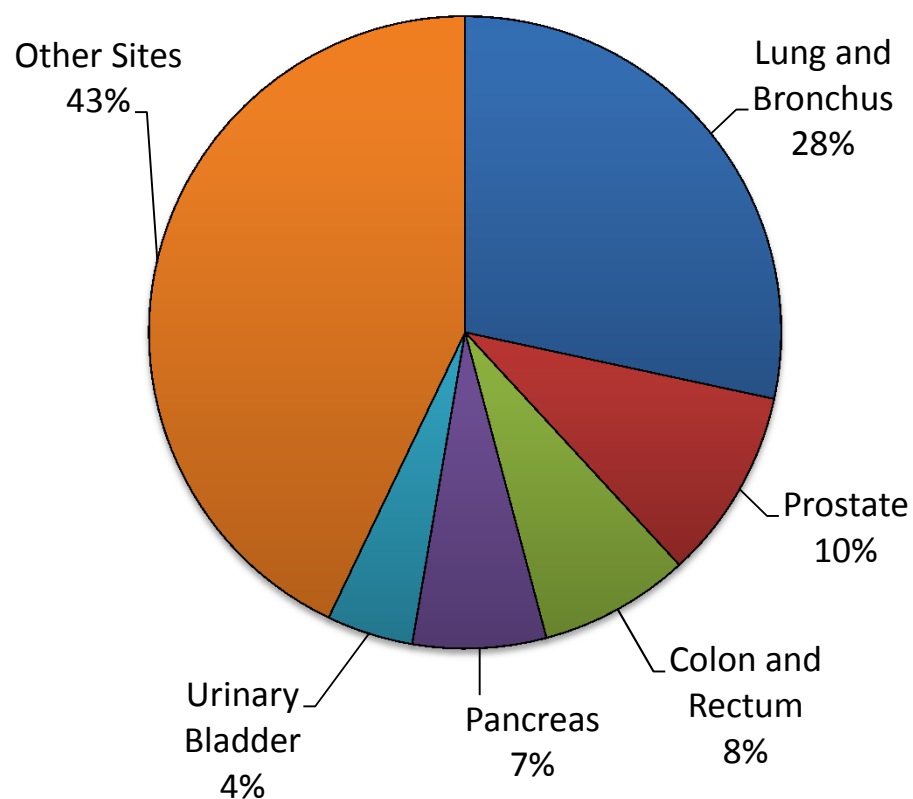


Note: All rates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population and are per 100,000 persons.

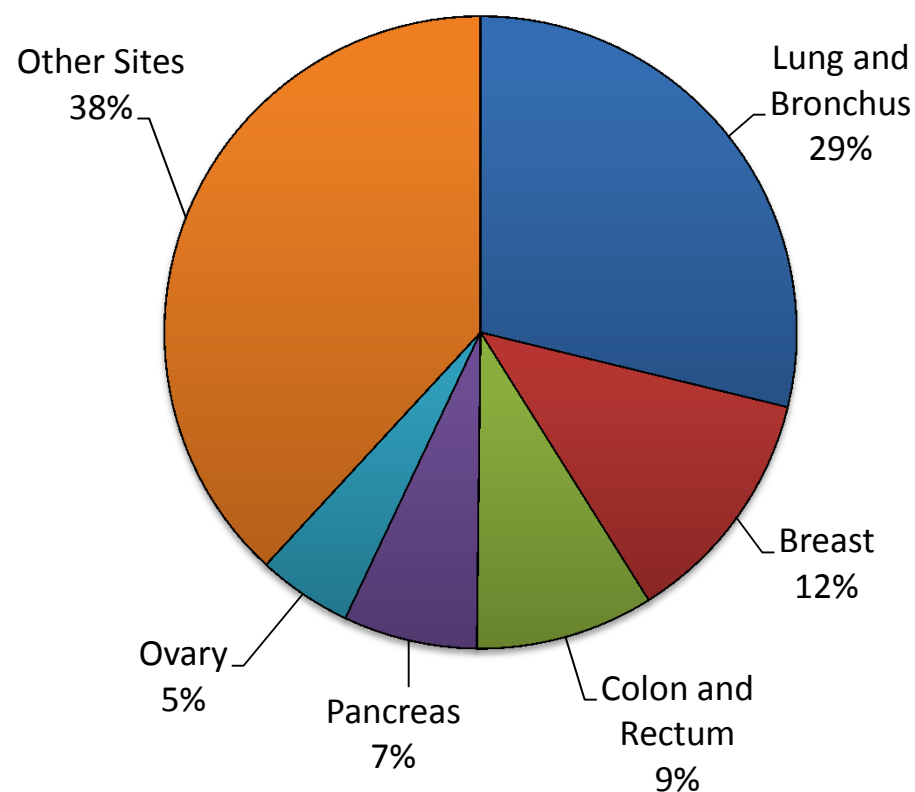
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Cancer Mortality by Sex

Leading Cancer Deaths, Vermont Males, 2008-2012



Leading Cancer Deaths, Vermont Females, 2008-2012



Cancer Mortality Data Notes

Vital Statistics: The Vermont Department of Health vital statistics system tracks the following vital events that occur in Vermont: births, deaths, marriages, divorces and dissolutions, fetal deaths, and abortions. The Department of Health also receives abstracts for Vermont resident births and deaths that occur in other states which allows the Department to do statistical analyses of vital events involving Vermont residents, including those events which occurred outside of the state.

Acknowledgement: This publication was supported by Grant/Cooperative Agreement Number U58/DP003911 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.